

USSN 09/963,520  
Amdt. dated Oct 27, 2005  
Reply to Office Action July 27, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This response is being filed under 37 CFR 1.34. A new Power of Attorney will be filed shortly.

An amended Figure 1 has been submitted under separate cover by hand delivery. The unidentified elements have been removed. The blank boxes have been appropriately labeled.

The claims have been amended to attend to the objections noted by the Examiner under 35 USC 112, particularly with regard to the antecedent objections. New claims 24 and 25 directed to aspects of the demerit engine have been added. New claims 26 and 27 are corresponding claims directed to the switch of claim 20. The total number of claims has not been exceeded.

The indication of allowable subject matter in former claims 7 to 18 is noted with appreciation. The limitations of former claim 7 have been imported into claim 3, which should now be allowable. Moreover, it is noted that the data structures containing the entries corresponding to the elements reporting faults are not shown in the prior art, and as this feature has been incorporated into claims 19 and 21, it is believed that such claims should also be allowable.

Claims 1 and 20 are directed to the feature not shown in the prior art wherein a rapid switchover occurs in the event that no faults are recorded in the demerit engine, and that the rapid switchover mechanism is disabled in the presence of recorded faults. This ensures that no unnecessary delays occur in switching over the active and redundant datapaths when no prior faults are present, i.e. the detected fault is the only fault present.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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